

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1270

By Dean

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Eloise Parker Litz on the celebration of her 90th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Gladys Eloise Parker Litz will celebrate her ninetieth birthday on July 1, 2010, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the oldest of four children born to Jabe and Bertie Parker, Eloise Parker was born in Johnson City but moved with her family to Elizabethton as a young child, where she attended school; and

WHEREAS, at a young age Eloise exhibited her musical talents while attending and worshiping at Elizabethton First Baptist Church, which is where she also met her future husband, David Graham Litz of Morristown, while at Choir practice; and

WHEREAS, the two were immediately attracted to each other as David Litz, who was working in the area for the Tennessee Valley Authority, enjoyed Eloise's energy and fun-loving spirit; and

WHEREAS, serving as a Seabee, David Litz enlisted into the service during World War II but continued to court his future bride long-distance as she furthered her education as an undergraduate student at Milligan College studying Music with an emphasis on Voice; and

WHEREAS, in February 1946, Eloise Parker was joined in marriage with David Graham Litz and the couple's blessed union produced one child, Nancy; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Eloise Parker Litz and David Litz both served with acumen and alacrity as teachers, with both completing graduate work at Peabody College for Teachers, now part of Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, enjoying a distinguished thirty-year career as a music teacher, Mrs. Litz taught at five schools in the Chattanooga area; she inspired generations of students and expanded their musical horizons by exposing them to the Masters – Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, and Mozart – on regular trips to the Chattanooga Opera and the Symphony; and

WHEREAS, a true professional, Eloise Litz attended Choral Directors' Workshops, adjudicated Junior High and High School Choirs statewide and attended national Music Education conferences; in 1960, she received the prestigious honor of being invited to join Delta Kappa Gamma for her high performance in teaching; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Litz's students excelled under her tutelage while in school but also later in life, as many now sing in choirs, and others have gone on to sing with the Metropolitan Opera, to play in symphonies, to direct community and church choirs, and to follow in her footsteps by becoming music teachers both in public and private schools; and

WHEREAS, devoted to her family, Mrs. Litz enjoys the loving support of her daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Steve Oliver, and her two grandchildren, Kathryn Elizabeth and David Anderson Oliver, having lost the love of her life, David Graham Litz, after sixty-three years of marriage, with his passing in June of 2009; and

WHEREAS, as Eloise Parker Litz approaches her tenth decade, she is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events, as her health permits; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Eloise Parker Litz on the celebration of her 90th birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.